

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

January 11, 2010

The Honorable Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Senate President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Martin M. Looney
Senate Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Christopher G. Donovan
Speaker of the House
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Denise W. Merrill
House Majority Leader
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senators Williams and Looney, and Representatives Donovan and Merrill,

On behalf of the House and Senate Republican caucuses, we are writing to you again to express our concern about the lack of urgency with which the legislature is addressing our state's budget crisis, and we are requesting a written response to our letter of December 29, 2009 calling for immediate bipartisan budget talks.

In public comments, Senator Looney dismissed our letter as "another example of a Republican smoke screen," and Senator Williams, through a spokesman, also responded by questioning the sincerity of our proposal. House Democratic leaders have not responded at all.

Where do we go from here? Our state faces a \$500 million budget deficit and the people who elected us are demanding action. Governor Rell has done her part in making rescissions and offering real spending cuts to the extent her executive authority allows. It is up to the legislature to finish the job.

Senator Williams, to his credit, has twice expressed interest in working across party lines to solve issues affecting all of our constituencies. During special session on December 21st, he invited senate leaders from both parties to work together to save the Licensed Practical Nurse program from proposed budget cuts. Then, Friday, at the Connecticut Business and Industry Associations' Economic

Summit, he said he would be willing to work across party lines on proposals to reduce the cost of government by consolidating executive branch agencies and functions.

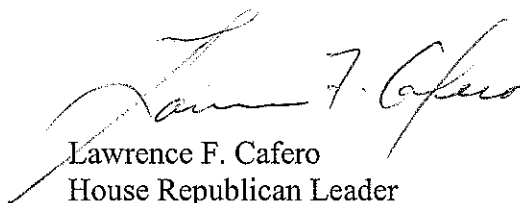
We believe both of these issues merit our prompt attention and should be among the items discussed in the bipartisan budget talks we have requested.

Our members and staff are ready and willing to work with you. We urge you to work with us, and we look forward to your prompt written response.

Sincerely,



John McKinney
Senate Republican Leader



Lawrence F. Cafero
House Republican Leader

Cc: The Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor
All Connecticut State Legislators

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